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(54) **Target and background capture methods and apparatus for affinity assays.**

(57) Methods, compositions and instruments for performing affinity assays for target molecules include contacting a sample with a retrievable support capable of forming a substantially homogenous dispersion within a sample medium and reversibly binding to the target molecule. The retrievable support is capable of being separated from the sample medium recapturing the target molecule from other constituents of the sample.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 87 30 9308

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	WO-A-8 605 815 (GENETICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.) * Whole document *	1-5,7-9 ,11,22, 23,30, 31,34- 36,39	G 01 N 33/538 C 12 Q 1/68 G 01 N 33/553 G 01 N 33/546
X,P L	EP-A-0 232 967 (AMOCO CORP.(priority)) * @Page 7, lines 23-34; page 22, lines 41-58; figure 2 *	24-29	
X,P	EP-A-0 230 768 (SYNTEX (USA) INC.) * Page 3, lines 18-49; page 5, lines 44-50; page 8, lines 47-52; page 9, lines 1-7; page 15, example 3; page 18, lines 41-43; page 26, lines 22-45 *	1-5,7- 11,22, 23,30, 31,34- 39	
X	BIOCHEMISTRY SOCIETY TRANSACTIONS, vol. 12, part 4, August 1984, pages 693-694, The Biochemical Society, London, GB; J.A. LANGDALE et al.: "Magnetic DNA" * Whole article *	1-5,7-9 ,11,22, 23,30, 31,34- 36,39	
X	CLINICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 31, no. 9, September 1985, pages 1438-1443, Winston-Salem, NC, US; R. POLSKY-CYNKIN et al.: "Use of DNA immobilized on plastic and agarose supports to detect DNA by sandwich hybridization" * Page 1438, column 1, line 19 - page 1440, column 1, line 5 *	1,2,7, 30,31	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			G 01 N 33 C 12 Q 1 B 03 C 1
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16-02-1989	Examiner VAN BOHEMEN C.G.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X,D	NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, vol. 14, no. 12, 1986, pages 5037-5048, IRL Press Ltd, Oxford, GB; A.-C. SYVÄNEN et al.: "Fast quantifications of nucleic acid hybrids by affinity-based hybrid collection" * Page 5038, line 30 - page 5040, line 32; page 5041, figure 1 *	1,2,7,30	
X,D	US-A-3 970 518 (I. GIAEVER) * Column 1, lines 37-54; column 4, lines 1-30 *	1,4,5,7,11,22,23,34,35	
X	EP-A-0 125 995 (ADVANCED MAGNETICS, INC.) * Page 14, line 28 - page 15, line 16; page 30, lines 18-19; page 53, lines 3-17 *	1,4,5,7,11,22,23,34,35	
Y	EP-A-0 139 489 (ORTHO DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEMS INC.) * Page 2, line 14 - page 3, line 4; page 3, lines 28-33; page 5, lines 19-27; figure *	1-3,5-10,12-22,30-34,36-41	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
Y	WO-A-8 202 773 (ICL SCIENTIFIC) * Page 4, lines 21-25; page 6, line 18 - page 7, line 27; page 10, lines 33-36 *	1-3,5-10,12-22,30-34,36-41	
X	EP-A-0 159 719 (ENZO BIOCHEM INC.) * Page 4, lines 1-15; page 10, lines 13-22; page 32, line 1 - page 36, line 2; figures 1-3 *	1-3,5-10,12-22,30-34,36-41	
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